GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1259
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
LAND MISMANAGEMENT
PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned `CAG slams Rlys. Board for not adopting right track on land management` appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated December 13,1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein together with the reaction thereof;

(c) the number of agreements that have been executed by the Railways during the last three years and the current year so far and revenue collected therefrom; and

(d) the reasons for slow progress and the steps taken to bring about improvement therein ? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHAUNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1259 ASKED B SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH & SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA ON 02.03.2000 REGARDING LAND MISMANAGEMENT.

(a) Yes, Sir.
(b) The Report mainly contains the following:-

(i) Staff not provided exclusively for Land Management work on Zonal Railways as well as in Railway Board;

(ii) Work of certification of land plans not complete, land records not being maintained as expected, large number of encroachments and Court cases

(iii)The execution of agreements and recovery of licence fee not up to the mark;

(iv) Earnings from afforestation on vacant land were very dismal

The position regarding these points is given below:-

(i) to (iii): Though the need for strengthening of Land Management Organisation in Railways has been felt and acknowledged over the years, the staff could not be provided exclusively for Land Management work due to ban oncreation of posts and resource crunch. Due to this, staff had to look after the other duties in addition to the work related to land management work. However, the activities of the Land Management Organisation especially those connected with commercial exploitation of Railway land and air space are being entrusted to the Railways PSUs as the Railway is not in a position to increase the staff.

(iv) Afforestation on railway land, till now was being taken up mainly from the point of view of protection of railway land from encroachments and to improve the environment. However, in pursuant to the recommendation of the Expert Committee on Land Management on Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways have now decided to take up plantationof trees on railway land on commercial lines as well.
(c) &(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.